

IN THE CLAIMS:

The status of the claims is provided:

1. (currently amended) A fibrous composite article comprising fibrous material having an average fiber length of less than about 2 millimeters (mm) and a cured, binder resin, wherein the fibrous material comprises a species selected from the group consisting of hemp hurd, kenaf hurd, vegetable bamboo culms, and mixtures thereof, **the article having a density of at least about 45 lb/ft³.**
2. (original) The article of claim 1 comprising fibrous material having an average fiber length of about 0.3 mm to about 1.6 mm and said binder resin, is present in an amount of about 2 wt.% to about 8 wt.%, based on the weight of the fibrous material prior to cure.
3. (original) The article of claim 1, wherein the fibrous material has a specific gravity of about 1 to about 1.2.
4. (original) The article of claim 1, wherein the thermosetting binder resin is selected from the group consisting of amino resins, modified amino resins, phenolic resins, modified phenolic resins, and mixtures thereof.
5. (original) The article of claim 1, wherein the fibrous material has a pre-consolidation moisture content of about 3 wt.% to about 5 wt.%.

6. (original) The article of claim 1, wherein the fibrous material has a pre-consolidation moisture content of about 4 wt.% to about 4.5 wt.%.
7. (original) The article of claim 1, further comprising a sizing agent in an amount of about 1 wt.% to about 3 wt.%, based on the weight of the fibrous material prior to cure.
8. (original) The article of claim 1, further comprising a sizing agent in an amount of about 1.5 wt.% to about 2.5 wt.%, based on the weight of the fibrous material prior to cure.
9. (original) The article of claim 2, wherein the fibrous material comprises hemp hurd and the fibers have an average fiber length of about 0.5 mm to about 0.75 mm and the article contains the cured, binder resin in an amount of about 4 wt.% to about 6 wt.%, based on the weight of the fibrous material prior to cure.
10. (original) The article of claim 9 having a smoothness value of about 2.1 to about 3.8.
11. (original) The article of claim 9 having an internal bond strength of about 140 pounds per square inch (psi) to about 250 psi.

12. (original) The article of claim 9 having a cleavage value of about 45 pounds to about 65 pounds.
13. (original) The article of claim 2, wherein the fibrous material comprise kenaf hurd and the fibers have an average fiber length of about 0.5 mm to about 0.75 mm and the article contains the cured, binder resin in an amount of about 4 wt.% to about 6 wt.%, based on the weight of the fibrous material prior to cure.
14. (original) The article of claim 13 having a smoothness value of about 2 to about 5.
15. (original) The article of claim 14 having a smoothness value of about 2.5 to about 4.2.
16. (original) The article of claim 13 having an internal bond strength of about 210 psi to about 290 psi.
17. (original) The article of claim 16 having an internal bond strength of about 218 psi to about 279 psi.
18. (original) The article of claim 13 having a cleavage value of about 82 pounds to about 100 pounds.

19. (original) The article of claim 18 having a cleavage value of about 82 pounds to about 95.7 pounds.
20. (original) The article of claim 13 further comprising a wood species selected from the group consisting of aspen, birch, hackberry, fir, hickory, maple, mulberry, oak, pine, and sycamore.
21. (original) The article of claim 20 wherein the wood species is present in a wood species:kenaf weight ratio of about 0.25:1 to about 0.67:1.
22. (original) The article of claim 2, wherein the fibrous material comprises culms of a species of vegetable bamboo selected from the group consisting of high-node (*Phyllostachys promineus*), thunder (*P. praecox f. prevenalis*) red (*P. iridescens*), and mixtures thereof.
23. (original) The article of claim 22, wherein the fibrous material has an average fiber length of about 0.5 mm to about 0.75 mm and the article contains the cured, thermosetting binder resin in an amount of about 4 wt.% to about 6 wt.%, based on the weight of the fibrous material prior to cure.
24. (original) The article of claim 22 having a smoothness value of about 2 to about 9.

25. (original) The article of claim 24 having a smoothness value of about 2 to about 4.2.

26. (original) The article of claim 22 having an internal bond strength of about 160 psi to about 400 psi.

27. (original) The article of claim 26 having an internal bond strength of about 180 psi to about 375 psi.

28. (original) The article of claim 27 having an internal bond strength of about 225 psi to about 375 psi.

29. (original) The article of claim 22 having a cleavage value of about 65 to about 95.

30. (original) The article of claim 29 having a cleavage value of about 67.2 to about 92.5..

Claims 31-49 (previously withdrawn)

50. (new) A fibrous composite article comprising fibrous material having an average fiber length of about 0.3 mm to about 1.6 mm, and a binder resin in an amount of about 2 wt. % to about 8 wt. % based on the weight of the fibrous material prior to cure, wherein the fibrous material comprises culms of a species of vegetable

bamboo selected from the group consisting of high-node (*Phyllostachys promineus*), thunder (*P. praecox f. prevenalis*) red (*P. iridescens*), and mixtures thereof.

51. (new) The article of claim 50 having a smoothness value of about 2 to about 9.
52. (new) The article of claim 50 having an internal bond strength of about 160 psi to about 400 psi.
53. (new) The article of claim 50 having a cleavage value of about 65 to about 95.
54. (new) A fibrous composite article comprising fibrous material having an average fiber length of about 0.5 mm to about 0.75 mm, and a binder resin in an amount of about 4 wt. % to about 6 wt. % based on the weight of the fibrous material prior to cure, wherein the fibrous material comprises kenaf hurd, said article further comprising a wood species selected from the group consisting of aspen, birch, hackberry, fir, hickory, maple, mulberry, oak, pine, and sycamore.
55. (new) The article of claim 54 wherein the wood species is present in a wood species:kenaf weight ratio of about 0.25:1 to about 0.67:1.